



**CALIFORNIA
HIGH-SPEED RAIL
AUTHORITY**

BRIEFING: FEBRUARY 3rd AGENDA ITEM #5

TO: Chairman Pringle and Authority Board Members

FROM: Dan Leavitt, Deputy Director

DATE: 1/25/2011

RE: HST Station Area Development Policies

Discussion:

At the May 14, 2008 Authority Meeting the Board adopted the “HST Station Area Development Policies” which was incorporated into the Bay Area – Central Valley Program Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement. This policy recognizes the importance of transit-oriented development and value-capture at and around station sites that support and promote HST ridership. The policy was created in order for the selected communities to begin analyzing the best possible facets of their respective HST station and its surrounding locale. In turn the Authority committed to utilizing its resources, both financial and otherwise, to encourage the implementation of transit-oriented development, smart growth principles, and value capture at and near HST stations.

The goal of the Authority in regards to HST station area development is to have the local authorities go beyond the basics in design & development of their station area and plan for a greater vision that takes full advantage of this new transportation alternative within their geographical region. In turn, staff proposes that the Authority provide matching State funds of up to 40% for locally led station area planning studies, not to exceed \$200,000 each, to assist in the planning and development phase of the HST station areas (these would be in addition to any federal funding directly allocated for station area development, whether direct or through the Authority). These funds are not for physical construction but for study, research, and planning of local HST station areas.

The Authority recognizes the unique situation within each city’s infrastructure growth and planning and will therefore limit its role to one of an “advisory” position; thereby, not restricting the ideas of each community but encouraging grand designs for the city’s respective HST station and contiguous surroundings.

As directed by the Executive Committee, on August 23, 2010, Chapter 6 (“HST Station Area Development”) of the Bay Area to Central Valley Program EIR/EIS (with minor revisions) was shared with regional agencies (e.g., SCAG, SACOG, etc.), transportation agencies (e.g., LA Metro, Caltrans, BART, etc.) all the cities slated to potentially have HST stations, and other organizations and agencies. Written comments were received by 35 entities. While respondents generally welcome Authority cooperation and support, they had a number of comments and suggestions and in particular want to make sure there is flexibility in the process so each city can develop the most

appropriate station area for its community. A recurring theme among the comments was “don’t assume one-size-fits-all” for HST stations and the development around these stations. A summary of the response letters is included as an attachment, and all the response letters received are available on the Authority’s website. Based upon the input received, a revised “HST Station Area Development: General Principles and Guidelines” document has been developed. This document is included as an attachment that highlights the proposed edits (in “track-changes”).

Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board approve the revisions to the “HST Station Area: General Principles and Guidelines” document and delegate to the Chief Executive Office the authority to negotiate and enter into agreements with communities for the purpose of carrying out the guideline set forth in the Board adopted HST Station Area Development Policies by adopting Resolution HSRA11-07.

Attachments:

- ✓ HST Station Area Development Policies – Adopted May 14, 2008
- ✓ Summary of Responses to Station Area Development Guidelines
- ✓ HST Station Area Development: General Principles and Guidelines (Revised)
- ✓ Resolution HSRA11-07